

A Short UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

NARRATIVE
 Of the Discovery of a
College of Jesuits,
 At a Place called the
COME,
 In the County of *HEREFORD*:

Which was sent up unto the Right Honorable,
 The LORDS Assembled in PARLIAMENT,
 at the End of the last Sessions; by the Right
 Reverend Father in God *HERBERT*, Lord Bishop of
Hereford, according to an Order sent unto him by the said Lords,
 to make diligent Search, and return an Account thereof.

To which is added

A true Relation of the Knavery of
Father LEWIS,
 The Pretended Bishop of *Landaffe*;
 Now a Prisoner in *Monmouth Gaol*.

London, Printed by T. N. for Charles Harper, at the Flower-de-luce
 against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet. 1679.

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REVITALE

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*A short Narrative of the Discovery of
a College of Jesuits, at a place called
The Come, in the County of Here-
ford. Together with an Account
of the Knavery of Father Lewis,
the pretended Bishop of Landasse,
&c.*



IN the Parish of Llanroihall in the
County of Hereford, there are two
Houses, called, *The Upper and
Lower Comes, or Middle and Lower
Comes*, with a walled Court before each of
A 3 them,

See the Ex-
aminations
of Mr. Booth-
by, Lord of
the Mannor.

them, having Lands belonging to them
worth about Threescore pounds *per Annum*,
(they pay Taxes at Eight and fifty pounds
per Annum.)

This Estate did formerly belong to *Edward* Lord Marquis of *Worcester*, who by his
Lease dated *Novemb. 10.* in the Twelfth year
of King *Charles* the I. did Lett it for Four-
score and nineteen years to one *William*
Morton, who dying, lett it to one *Robert*
Hutton living in *St. Giles's in the Fields*, *Lon-*
don, stiled Merchant; which *Hutton* hath
by his Lease dated the second day of *Febru-*
ary 1677. and sealed and delivered in the
presence of *William Ireland*, *John Fenwick*,
J. Groves, set the *Lower Come* to one *William*
Williams, for One and twenty years, at For-
ty pounds *per Annum*: And he hath likewise
made a Letter of Attorney to one *Peter Pul-*
len a Servant, intrusting him with the manage-
ment of the Profits of both the *Comes*, which
is dated the 27th day of *April 1678.* and
the Witnesses to it are *W. Ireland*, *Jo. Fen-*
wick, and *William Cornelius*.

One

One of these Houses is a fair gentle House, wherein there are six lodging Chambers ; each one a convenient Study to it, with a Standish left in them, besides several other lodging Rooms.

The other House is also a good Countrey House, with several Chambers, and Studies to some of them, all in very good repair : But the Furniture now removed, we cannot yet find whither.

The remaining Dwellers in the House, who were but Under-Servants, will not confess : They are apparently Perjured ; For they flatly denied, upon Oath, several things, which were made out by others, and then they confessed them.

There are One and twenty Chimnies in both Houses, and a great many Doors to go in and out at ; and likewise many private Passages from one Room to the other.

These Houses are seated at the bottom of a thick woody and rocky Hill, with several hollow places in the Rocks, wherein Men may conceal themselves ; and there is a very
private

private Passage from one of the Houses, into this Wood.

In one of these Houses there was a Study found, the Door thereof very hardly to be discovered, being placed behind a Bed, and plaistred over like the Wall adjoining, in which was found great store of Divinity Books, and others, in Folio and Quarto, and many other lesser Books, several Horse-loads, (but they are not yet brought to me, it being *Christmas* Holy-days, but they remain in a safe hand) many whereof are written by the principal learned Jesuits.

And there were found two Paper Books in Folio, in the Front of one written,

Ordinationes variae pro Collegio Sancti Xaverii.

(*Xaverius* was the Co-founder with *Ignatius* of the Jesuits Order, and his Picture was there set up.)

Ordinationes, doth not here signifie *Ordination*, as we commonly understand it; but Orders and Rules sent from the Generals of the Jesuits

Jesuits *Caraffa* and *Paulus Oliva*, to the Jesuits here inhabiting ; as also Instructions from the Provincials of the Jesuits living in *London*, unto those here.

The other Paper Book contains the great Benefactors, being Queens, Princes, Nobles, and several others of this and divers other Nations, who have contributed towards the Foundation of *Jesuit Colleges*, or the Maintenance of them ; and likewise the number of Masses appointed to be said for their Souls.

There was also found a Latin Book in Folio, declaring, *That there is in London a College dedicated to St Ignatius, with Revenues belonging to it, for the Jesuit Novices in the time of Probation.*

One in Wales (which I suppose are these two Houses) dedicated to St Xaverius.

A third is (the Book saith) in Staffordshire, or Lancashire, dedicated to St Aloysius, another prime Jesuit : which Colleges , when England shall be reduced to the Obedience of the Pope, shall never be altered, as this Book directs. This printed Book, and the other two Paper Books in Folio, I have.

There are about Fifteen or Sixteen several printed Books, containing the Decrees of the several Congregations of that Society at Rome, that contain onely the Rules of the Society of Jesus.

There are several Books lately written and printed against the Protestant Religion, and many small Popish Catechisms printed and tyed up in a bundle; and some Welsh Popish Books lately printed, and some Popish Manuscripts fairly and lately written.

Likewise there is a Picture of Ignatius Loyola, the Founder of the Society, and the most remarkable Actions and pretended Miracles

racles of his Life, not only written in printed Books, but in Pictures in several sheets, which Pictures refer to Ribadeneira's Book of *Loiola's* Life.

There is a loose Paper ~~dated~~ the First day of *March* 1652. (it seems this was then founded a College) in which directions were given, that an Account of the Revenue and Disbursements should be sent yearly to the College in *Rome*: It is there also mentioned, that the same year there were baptized 34; reconciled to the Church of *Rome* 155 (a great number;) of those that were fallen from the Church and regained 15, and other matters.

One Letter seems written by the Provincial to them of this House, wherein Complaint is made, *That there was not Care enough taken to send Young Men to Rome, to be there bred up in the English College; and for which, he saith, the Pope was much displeased, and threatned to take away their College there, and fill it up with Scholars of some other Nation and Order.*

See Peter
Pullen's
Exami-
nation.

In one of these Houses lived a mean Ser-
vant, called *Peter Pullen*, (a Papist) yet en-
trusted with the management of these Hou-
ses and Estates for Eight years past, as he
confesseth ; and was entrusted to receive a
Rent of 30 *l. per Annum*, from an Estate
called *Amberley* in the Parish of *Monmouth*,
and another Rent of 18 *l. per Annum*, from
an Estate called *Langunnuill* in the Parish of
Dixon in the County of *Monmouth*, and to
manage them also : part whereof defrayed
the Expences of the College, as appears in
part by an Account Book, where there are
many Leaves cut out, (*I suppose they had
timely Notice given them, before the Order was
sent me by the House of Lords, and did there-
upon do this, and remove what they could before
hand*) and part paid in money to such *Jesuit
Priests* as were appointed to receive it : but
for these Eight years that he hath been Ser-
vant there, he never hath made any Account
unto, nor held any Correspondence with the
said *Hutton*, who carrieth the name of this
Estate.

This

This Pullen names seven several Jesuit Priests, viz. Prichard, Archer, Harris, Lewis, Price, Humfreys, and Draicot, who were used to resort thither, and say Mass there: but the Altar, with all the Ornaments thereof, was taken down, and conveyed away, only the Altar Stone remaining with five Crosses cut in it, one at each corner, and one in the middle.

Two *Vestments*, with some other small matters, were found in two Boxes hid in the ~~Wood~~ above-specifi'd (*it seems the other things were but newly removed; and they had begun also to remove the Library, for they had carried out and hid in a Pigs-Cot adjoining, about two Horse-loads of Books.*)

There were found many Bottles of Oyl, a Box of White Wafers stamped, several Popish Pictures and Crucifixes, some Reliques, a little Saints Bell, and an Incense Pot.

It doth appear by several Examinations, that on Sundayes and Holydayes many Papists did resort to these Comes, and the greater part of Mr. Milburn's Family near unto them, but I do not find that ever he himself frequented it.

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A Relation of the Knavery of Father
LEWIS, the pretended Bishop
of LANDAFFE.

Amongst other things which fell out in the Examination of the Jesuits College at Come in Herefordshire, there is fully proved by several Witnesses, this true Story following; which being matter of Fact, cannot be denied.

T Here is, amongst the Foxes of this Kennel, one *Lewis*, one of the established number of Jesuits of the College; who is reported to be the Titular Bishop of *Landaffe*, and who is now Prisoner in *Monmouth*.

There was a poor Woman, to whom this *Lewis* was a Confessor; her Father was a vicious

vicious Liver , and dyed about half a year ago

This poor Woman having been taught the Doctrine of Purgatory, and being (it seems) of a very tender nature, and reflecting upon the condition of her Fathers Soul, which she apprehended, by their doctrine, was in great torment in Purgatory: She thereupon fell into a great grief and sorrow; and, with tears in her eyes, address'd her self to this Father Lewis, and told him, *She was inform'd, that he could use means to fetch her Fathers Soul immediately out of Purgatory into Heaven; and that she would give him all she had in the world to have it done with speed, though she did not leave her self one penny to live on*

To this, Father Lewis, after a long pause, told her, thus: *Daughter, I am glad to see so much grace in you, as to believe the Holy Doctrine of Purgatory, so firmly as to be so truly sensible of the Torture of your Fathers Soul therein: True it is, I can (with the assistance of our most Holy Father the Pope) bring your*
Fathers

Fathers Soul out of Purgatory into Heaven; but it will cost a great deal of money: For I must send over to Rome, to have power herein, and several Masses must be celebrated both in Rome, and all other Colledges of Jesuits, and other Offices perform'd to do the work; which, Father Lewis said, would cost a great deal of money.

The poor Woman answer'd, She did not care what it cost her; so dear, so precious was her Fathers Soul to her, that she would give all she had to have it done.

And then she ask'd him, How much it would cost to have it done?

Who, after a pause, and reckoning upon his fingers-ends, told her, It would cost One Hundred pound to have it well done.

With that the Woman cry'd bitterly, and said, She was not worth half so much money in the world.

C

Then

Then Father Lewis told her, *He would do it for Fourscore pounds.*

The Woman reply'd, *She was not worth half Fourscore.*

Then Father Lewis ask'd her, *What she was worth in the whole world?*

To which she answer'd very honestly and truly, *That she was worth but Thirty five pound.*

Then Father Lewis told her, *Because she was poor, that he would take but Thirty pound: And thereupon they agreed.*

But when Father Lewis understood after from the Woman, that she had no ready money, he began to storm; and to be in a great passion; yet at last he was contented to take her own Bond for the Thirty pounds; but took the Bond in a Friends name, and caus'd the Woman to give a Warrant to an
Attor-

Attorney to confess Judgment upon the Bond, which was done accordingly ; and the money was to be paid within six Weeks, within which time Father *Lewis* undertook peremptorily to have the Man's Soul out of *Purgatory* into *Heaven*, and so they parted, and the Woman hereby much comforted.

Afterwards, as soon as ever the six Weeks were over, and the money became due, Father *Lewis* sent to the poor Woman, to come to him again, and as soon as ever she came, he produc'd unto her a Book with gilded Leaves, and red Letters; and after he had tumbled the Leaves of the Book backward and forward, he clapt the Book to his ear, and then said thus, looking into the Book,

Here it is, I am sure now your business is done; this I tell you to your comfort that your Father's Soul is as surely in Heaven at this very time, as I am here in this Chair.

And then after a little time that the Woman had express'd her joy at these good tydings, Father *Lewis* ask'd her, *Whether she had brought him his money, the Thirty pound she was engaged for?*

She answer'd, *She had not brought him all, because her money was out in other mens hands, and could not get it in so soon; but she had brought him Ten pound, and humbly intreated him to receive that at present, and he should have the residue as soon as possibly she could get it in.*

But at this Father *Lewis* was startled, that she had not brought the whole Sum, and fell into a violent fury with the poor Woman, reviled her, gave her many harsh and bitter Words, threaten'd the poor Woman to send Bayliffs to take her in Execution upon her Judgment, and cast her Body into Prison; and not only so, but threaten'd to Excommunicate her also, for the breach of her faith, in not paying the Thirty pound, according to her Engagement:

But

But, upon second thoughts, Father *Lewis* took the Ten pound, and he came to this farther agreement with her, which was, that she should pay Five pound more forthwith, and the other Fifteen pound within a quarter of a year after ; and if she failed , then to render her Body to Prison, and suffer Excommunication.

After this, the poor Woman made hard shift to pay Father *Lewis* the Five pound, but before the other Fifteen was due, a man of the Protestant Religion, solicited the poor Woman for Marriage. The poor Woman ingenuously and conscientiously confess'd unto him, *That she was worth nothing, but was in debt to her Ghostly Father Lewis Fifteen pound*: And acquainted him how , and for what she came to be so indebted. This man, notwithstanding, marries her, and afterwards, by degrees, drew her from the *Roman Church*, to the *Church of England*; and then brought her before a Justice of Peace , to whom she discover'd all this upon Oath.

And

And this Woman knowing where her holy Confessor *Lewis* us'd to hide himself, under Ground, under a clay Floor, cunningly contriv'd in a poor despicable Cottage; and being now exasperated at the *Holy Cheat*, and desirous, as is most just, to catch his person, as he would have catched hers; and endeavouring to have satisfaction from him for the money he (with so much uncharitableness) cheated her of, did conduct a Justice of Peace to the place, where they found and unkenel'd the Fox, and from thence the Justice of Peace sent Father *Lewis* to *Monmouth* Gaol, where he now continues.

FINIS.

